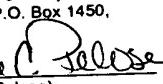


O I P E I M P S
AUG 17 2006
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 318224982 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: August 17, 2006

Signature: 
(Susanne C. Pelose)

Docket No.: 961_006RCE
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael W. LaCourt et al.

Application No.: 09/910,399

Confirmation No.: 9658

Filed: July 20, 2001

Art Unit: 1743

For: AUXILIARY SAMPLE SUPPLY FOR A
CLINICAL ANALYZER

Examiner: Jan M. Ludlow

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the non-final Office Action, dated March 22, 2006, please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.